

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 17,
wherein the second cylindrical member is provided in such a manner as to permit radial movement thereof relative to the cylinder while preventing axial movement thereof relative to the cylinder.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 17,
wherein the second cylindrical member is provided in such a manner as to permit radial movement thereof relative to the cylinder while preventing axial movement thereof relative to the cylinder

and wherein the first cylindrical member is provided in such a manner as to permit radial movement thereof relative to the rod while preventing axial movement thereof relative to the rod.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 17, further comprising:

a rod guide provided in the cylinder and adapted to guide displacement of the rod;

a spherical bearing provided on an outer circumferential surface of the rod guide;

wherein the second cylindrical member is guided by the spherical bearing so that it is capable of performing rocking movement, thereby substantially uniformly maintaining a radial gap between the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 1, wherein a bearing member for guiding sliding movement of the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member is provided between the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 1, wherein a universal joint mechanism for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement is provided between the cylinder and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 7 (Original) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 2, wherein a universal joint mechanism for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement is provided between the rod and the first cylindrical member.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 3, wherein universal joint mechanisms for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement are respectively provided between the cylinder and the second cylindrical member and between the rod and the first cylindrical member.

Claim 9 (Original) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 2, wherein a bearing member for guiding sliding movement of the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member is provided between the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 3, wherein a bearing member for guiding sliding movement of the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member is provided between the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 11 (Original) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 4, wherein a bearing member for guiding sliding movement of the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member is provided between the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 5, wherein a universal joint mechanism for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement is provided between the cylinder and the second cylindrical member.

Claim 13 (Original) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 4, wherein a universal joint mechanism for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement is provided between the rod and the first cylindrical member.

Claim 14 (Original) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 9, wherein a universal joint mechanism for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement is provided between the rod and the first cylindrical member.

Claim 15 (Original) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 11, wherein a universal joint mechanism for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement is provided between the rod and the first cylindrical member.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 10, wherein universal joint mechanisms for permitting the radial movement while preventing the axial movement are respectively provided between the cylinder and the second cylindrical member and between the rod and the first cylindrical member.

Claim 17 (Currently amended) An electromagnetic suspension system comprising:
an extensible member including a cylinder and a rod capable of displacement relative to the cylinder in the axial direction of the cylinder;
a first cylindrical member connected to the rod so as to be prevented from moving relative to the rod in the axial direction of the rod, either one of a coil member and a magnetic member being provided in the first cylindrical member; and

a second cylindrical member connected to the cylinder so as to be prevented from moving relative to the ~~cylinder in the~~ axial direction of the cylinder, the other of the coil member and the magnetic member being provided in the second cylindrical member, the second cylindrical member facing either one of an inner side and an outer side of the first cylindrical member, and the second cylindrical member being slidably movable relative to one of the inner side and the outer side of the first cylindrical member and guided thereby;

wherein the first cylindrical member and the second cylindrical member are arranged to obtain at least one of:

the first cylindrical member being capable of radial movement or rocking movement relative to the rod; and

the second cylindrical member being capable of radial movement or rocking movement relative to the cylinder.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) An electromagnetic suspension system according to claim 17, wherein the second cylindrical member is provided in such a manner as to be capable of performing rocking movement relative to the cylinder.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic suspension device according to claim ~~4~~ 17, further comprising a universal joint mechanism including:

a collar provided on the rod, the collar having a flange at one end thereof;

an end of the first cylindrical member, the end including an opening through which the rod extends; and

a shoulder portion formed on the rod,

wherein the end of the first cylindrical member is held fit between the flange and the shoulder portion, thereby permitting radial movement of the first cylindrical member relative to the rod while restricting axial movement thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) An electromagnetic suspension system comprising:

an extensible member including a cylinder and a rod capable of displacement relative to the cylinder in the axial direction of the cylinder;

a first cylindrical member connected to the rod so as to be prevented from moving relative to the rod in the axial direction of the rod, either one of a coil member and a magnetic member being provided in the first cylindrical member; and

a second cylindrical member connected to the cylinder so as to be prevented from moving relative to the cylinder in the axial direction of the cylinder, the other of the coil member and the magnetic member being provided in the second cylindrical member, the second cylindrical member facing either one of an inner side and an outer side of the first cylindrical member, the second cylindrical member being slidably movable relative to one of the inner side and the outer side of the first cylinder member and being guided thereby; and

means for permitting at least one of:

(a) radial or rocking movement of the first cylindrical member relative to the rod, and

(b) radial or rocking movement of the second cylindrical member relative to the cylinder;

wherein said means comprises a connection that allows substantial radial or rocking movement but substantially no axial movement of at least one of the first cylindrical member relative to the rod and the second cylindrical member relative to the cylinder.